



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community  
Hanson

Property Address  
1120 Main Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Form # 4

Area



**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's #  
**43/45**

USGS Quad  
**Whitman**

Area

Form #  
**4**

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Town **Hanson**

Place **South Hanson**

Address **1120 Main Street**

Historic Name **South Hanson Depot**

Use: Present **retail store**  
Original **railroad depot**

Date **1844? and 1879**

Source **"History of Hanson"**

Style/Form **Italianate**

Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **fieldstone**

Wall/Trim **wood clapboard**

Roof **asphalt**

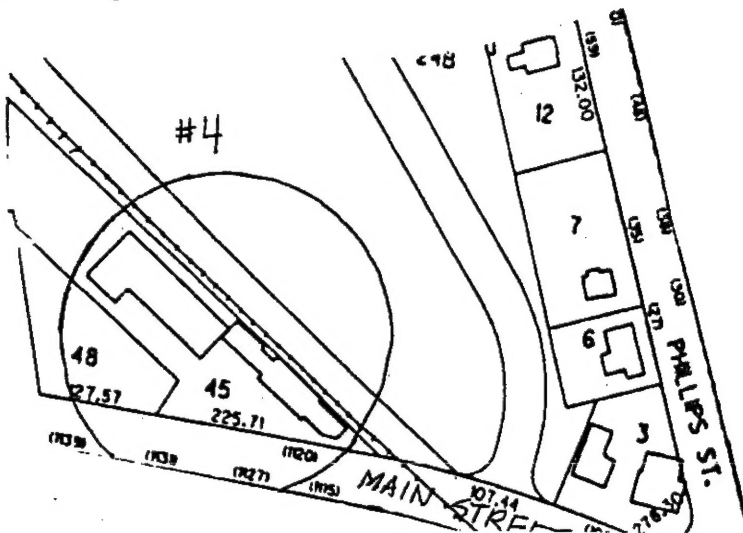
Outbuildings **none**

Major Alterations **expanded 1886;**  
**new metal additions**

Condition **fair**

Photo roll/frame **10/35 &**  
**HHC 1/20,24**

Sketch Map



**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The South Hanson Depot is the last of Hanson's depots to survive and takes the common form of depots dating to the end of the 19th century. The original building dates to the original construction of the Old Colony line through the town, and may be the small gable-roofed section which survives. The main depot was constructed in 1879 and later in 1886 was cut in half and expanded. The main section of the building is a narrow rectangular hip block of four widely spaced bays on its street-facing facade. Bays one, three, and four are lit with tall six-over-six sash with a narrow door in bay two. The rail-facing facade is less-regularly marked by false windows and doors, with an off-center polygonal bay lit with fixed sash and a door to its right. Its deeply overhanging roof is supported by large decorative trusses. The main block is extended to both the right and left with secondary elements, an open flat-roofed area to the Main Street side which may be new, and a series of enclosed spaces extending along the track. These include a low shed-roofed section and a gable-roofed section with a simpler overhanging roof on the rail side and a wide central opening on the opposite; this may be the original depot which became the freight station with the construction of the new depot in 1879. A new expansion of the depot flanking the rail bed is a two-part wide gabled building made of corrugated metal. Most of the area in front of the depot is an asphalt-covered parking lot.

**HISTORIC NARRATIVE**

The South Hanson Depot is the last depot to survive in a town once served by four stops on the Old Colony Railroad. The Old Colony was chartered in 1844, Plymouth County's first railroad and connecting the county seat north to Boston. The line cuts diagonally across the south and west sections of the town, running to the northwest above the Great Cedar Swamp from the southeast corner of the town. Two stations were initially constructed in Hanson, at North Hanson Depot on West Washington Street, and here on Main Street in South Hanson. The station included the town's second post office for much of the 19th century. In 1879, Frank Keene rebuilt the depot by cutting it in half and adding a new middle section, a popular method for expanding buildings without chimneys or interior partitions. In 1880 the Monponsett Lake and Land Company built a station on the east side of Monponsett Street on the Halifax border in the southeast of the town. The Bournetown depot was added east of Pleasant Street, between the South Hanson and Monponset stops.

**REFERENCES**

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible. ☐ Eligible only in a historic district.  
☐ Contributing to a potential district. ☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

The South Hanson Depot is the last of Hanson's depots to survive and takes the common form of depots dating to the end of the nineteenth century. The main depot was constructed in 1879 and later expanded in 1886. A portion of an earlier depot which dates to the original construction of the Old Colony line through the town in the 1840s may survive as the small gable-roofed section. The South Hanson Depot was one of four depots in Hanson served by the Old Colony line which connected the county seat to Boston. The South Hanson Depot meets criteria A and C at the local level. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.